

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**APRIL 20, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. as a Committee of the Whole; a quorum was confirmed at about 10:10 a.m. and the Commission meeting was called to order.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl. Moore (temporarily absent)

**Absent**

Frank Bacio  
James Cragin

**Others**

Lee Millen, Senior Staff,  
Commission Services  
Twila Kerr, Staff

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2005**

The minutes were initially deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 13, 2005 were approved as submitted. Staff will call the city on 49#3; stove vent permit.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's appointee, Maxine Russel, has not begun to Commission business due to the recent loss of her son in a tragic accident.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

This item was deferred to the absence of Commissioner Bacio.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Lee Millen, Senior Staff, advised that William Sias, Deputy County Counsel, is working on the Commission's request to use cameras on inspection site visits to record evidence of primarily unsatisfactory cases.

William Sias reported that he forwarded a memo to DCFS requesting their legal counsel to review the Commission's request; a preliminary review is expected in about two weeks. Photos of dependents will not be allowed, and the procurement of cameras and the use of photos as evidence are concerns to be addressed. In the unlikelihood that DCFS does not concur with the Commission's request, the Commission can make the request nonetheless.

Chair Montano thanked Mr. Sias for his work to resolve this matter.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Montano summarized reading material available titled "Second Chance". Also, correspondence from Ms. Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, was received concerning Supervisor Knabe's Board motion regarding DCFS and Sybil Brand Commission's reporting relationship. Dr. Sanders has been contacted and Ed Sosa, DCFS, will work with the Commission on this matter.

### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

#### **Sheriff's Department**

Sergeant Dave Gutierrez, LASD, reported that Twin Towers is 99% compliant with the MRSA concern and remediation; all inmates have soap, linen changed twice a week, and showers made available twice a week. The ACLU has requested further remediation, including shower construction that is defective and causing rust buildup and deterioration. The LASD has requested \$2.5 million in funding to correct this problem.

Vice Chair Stathatos reported that female inmates at the Alhambra Court remarked that Twin Towers is unclean, food is cold, staff uses abusive language towards inmates, and shower temperature is too hot; also, the Alhambra Court air conditioning needs repair in that it is either on too cold or too hot.

Sergeant Gutierrez reported that the Board of Corrections has inspected the Twin Towers and a good rating was given. However, the air conditioning ducts are intentionally clogged by inmates to keep their area either cool or warm, which causes problems for others. The female jail area is a lot cleaner and painting of the area is planned.

Following discussion, Sergeant Gutierrez noted that Sheriff Baca has considered new construction of a female jail site, and/or the opening of SBI; new construction is estimated to cost about \$55 million. Commissioners asked to be kept abreast of any planning to create a separate female facility.

#### Barber Shop Program/Pepper Spray Use

Commissioner Moore suggested that a written request be forwarded to the Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer, to receive a response to this longstanding request from Commissioner Cannella.

#### Auditor-Controller's Office

Commissioner Hammargren commended the Auditor Controllers case processing and response to Group Home problems.

Jaclyn Hayes, Auditor-Controller's Office, advised that her office is receiving a summary listing of unsatisfactory conditions; however, Group Home Reports are needed and are not provided. Ms. Hayes reported on sites up for fiscal audits, and requested that Commissioners indicate on the Reports if the facility is to be re-inspected.

A discussion ensued on concerns regarding several sites. Staff was directed to fax Group Home Reports on unsatisfactory sites to Ms. Hayes.

Liz Howard, Department of Children and Family Services, reported that Group Home staff has developed a matrix for case processing: (1) Summary of contract responsibility for home (will be shared with Commission; and (2) To Monitor specific performance measures; will be training group home providers. Ms. Howard invited Commissioners to attend the May 3, 2005 DCFS training.

(Commissioners Hammargren and Moore were excused from the meeting at 11:45 p.m.)

Vice Chair Stathatos reported that Olive Crest is poorly run, no décor provided, and snacks given have a high sugar content.

Chairperson Montano thanked the Department representatives for their attendance and informative presentations.

### **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

#### **Pinnacle Foundation – 84#3**

Commissioner Moore inspected this facility on April 19, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. It was well kept and has excellent grounds.

#### **Teen's Happy Home – 103#2**

Commissioner Hammargren and Chairperson Montano re-inspected this facility on April 14, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. All repairs made and recommended paint/change garage door.

#### **Long Beach Branch**

Commissioner Hammargren and Chairperson Montano inspected this court on April 19, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**; however, elevators only go to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, elevator sensors are needed, and detainees are escorted through public areas. Also, security cameras are urgently needed, and all floors need cleaning and painting.

#### **Westside Children Group Home – 113#1**

Commissioner Hammargren and Chairperson Montano inspected this facility on April 18, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**; however, a

re-inspection is scheduled in two weeks for the following concerns: Staff records/fingerprints not on file, no lawn in backyard, trash on side/front of house, remove junk car, house needs painting, and repair rusty refrigerator door.

### **Shamrock Cottage – 99#3**

Commissioner Cannella and Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this facility on April 14, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. The Cottages have been reorganized and two homes are currently closed.

### **Shamrock Cottage – 99#1**

Commissioner Cannella and Vice Chair Stathatos attempted to inspect this facility on April 7, 2005; however, the home has been closed under a reorganization.

### **Alhambra Court**

Commissioner Cannella and Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this court on April 18, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**; however, turnout gear incomplete and inadequate in size, multiple complaints by female prisoners regarding Twin Towers (clogged plumbing, unclean, food in co-ed setting and inmates fed peanut butter/jelly, staff using abusive language with inmates). Also, air conditioning problem in Court.

### **Camp Rocky**

Commissioner Cannella and Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this camp on April 11, 2005 and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**; however, the kitchen vents need steam cleaning, and food stored should be rotated. The Director suggested that more rewards for good behavior, and a structured vocational training program.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **▪ Future Facility/Group Home Visits for Upcoming Week**

Chair Montano will call Commissioners with inspection assignments for the following week.

A quarterly camp/facility visit will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Lee Millen*

**Senior Staff**